

REMARKS

Claims 26-40 are pending in this application. The Specification has been amended to reference the priority claim to parent application no. 09/923,407, filed August 8, 2001, which is incorporated by reference in its entirety. In addition, original claims 1-25 have been canceled and new claims 26-40 have been added. Support for the new claims may be found in the Specification as follows:

Claim(s)	Specification
26	Page 10, lines 14-19 Page 9, lines 1-3
27-28	Page 9, lines 10-12
29	Page 9, lines 3-4
30	Page 9, lines 12-15
31	Page 9, lines 30-33
32-33	Page 8, lines 25-29
34	Page 10, lines 14-18 Page 15, lines 26-34
35-36	Page 8, lines 25-29 Page 7, lines 1-3
37-38	Page 26, lines 11-16
39-40	Page 9, lines 10-12

As no new matter has been added by the amendments herein, Applicants respectfully request entry of these amendments at this time.

Brief Description of the Present Invention

It is well understood that there is great difficulty in blending certain polymer materials having different microstructures. Specification at Page 4, lines 6-10. Thus, the present invention's combination of a polymer and a reinforcing agent, *e.g.*, nanoparticles, while in solution advantageously facilitates and improves the mixing of the polymers, providing properties unobtainable using conventional mixing or polymerization techniques. *Id.* at Page 10, lines 22-24.

As provided in the present Specification, the final product after solution blending is different from the final product obtained through conventional methods. In addition, solution blending of resilient polymer components and nanoparticles provides an added benefit over conventionally formed resilient polymer compositions that include nanoparticles. For example, simultaneous solution blending of the polybutadiene and nanoparticles (as opposed to adding the nanoparticles at a later stage after solution blending of the polybutadiene or

conventional mixing of the polybutadiene and nanoparticles), results in a more uniform dispersion of the nanoparticles throughout the composite. In contrast, conventional blending of resilient polymer components and nanoparticles is known to produce compositions with a less uniform dispersion of nanoparticles.

CONCLUSION

All claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. Applicants invite the Examiner to contact the undersigned attorneys to discuss any issues pertaining to the patentability of the pending claims.

No fees are believed to be due at this time. Should any other fees be required, however, please charge such fee to Swidler Berlin Shereff Friedman, LLP Deposit Account No. 195127, Order No. 20002.0092A.

Respectfully submitted,
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